

on the property under the direction of Administrator Snyder Turner. The home has always been funded entirely by generous private funding from churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals dedicated to giving children in need a second chance.

The Calvary Children's Home presently houses 26 children, and has housed more than 400 children since first opening its doors 33 years ago. The center is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing long-term residential care for children who are victims of broken homes, abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The majority of its residents are brothers and sisters who otherwise would have been separated from each other and placed into separate homes through the foster care system.

The Calvary Children's Home is an excellent example of private individuals reaching out and making a difference in the lives of our youth, without public mandates or tax dollars. It speaks well of Georgia's Seventh District that such an organization can survive. I wish Administrator Turner, the staff, residents, and donors well in continuing their commitments to love, spiritual values, and improving the lives of our young people.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON ITS 25TH ANNUAL RECITAL AND ITS FOUNDER, MS. YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance on the celebration of its 25th Annual Recital and its founder, Ms. Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces, for her many accomplishments. She has made every effort to provide a forum in which the young people of Hudson County, and particularly of Union City, NJ, are able to express their interest in the arts.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Fernandez demonstrated tremendous artistic ability at a very young age. After moving to the United States with her family, Ms. Fernandez begun taking lessons in ballet and piano at the age of five. She continued her training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theater, where she also excelled in Flamenco dance and piano while attending classes with renowned leaders in the fields of study.

Ms. Fernandez, since receiving her bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University, has served as a music and dance educator at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts in my hometown of Union City, NJ, where she is known for her remarkable commitment to her student's education.

Ms. Fernandez has demonstrated her dedication to the arts and education through her involvement in such associations as the Dance Educators of America, the Dance Masters of America, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the National Education Asso-

ciation. Her participation in the advancement of the arts includes making personal appearances at the New Jersey Opera and on various television broadcasts. In addition, she produced and hosted her own television program called "Art Beat."

Ms. Fernandez's artistic contributions to the community and her unwavering commitment to promoting the arts in our schools have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Union City, Hudson County, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey. In 1996 and 1997, she received the prestigious "Outstanding Choreographer" Award from the Dance Educators of America in New York City.

In recognition of Ms. Fernandez's impassioned devotion to promoting the arts in our schools and communities, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her, as well as Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, on this occasion, the 25th Annual Recital, and wishing Ms. Fernandez continued success in her endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT ALBERT M. ROMANO, JR.

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Albert M. Romano, Jr., one of 12 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Buddy" Romano hails from Oxnard, California, in my district, where he starred in varsity football and baseball at Santa Clara High School and was ranked 32nd in California for motocross racing.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Jennifer Suytar, also of Oxnard. The couple now have three children, 12-year-old Tyler, 9-year-old Megan, and 5-year-old Zachary, who must be very proud of their father for all he has achieved.

The Outstanding Airmen Award program began in 1956 during the Air Force Association's national convention as a way to highlight an Air Force military manpower crisis at the time. It proved so popular that it became an official Air Force award the following year.

Competition for Airman of the Year is strenuous. Nominations are sent from each command, separate operating agency, direct reporting unit, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to the Air Force Manpower Personnel Center. A high-ranking selection board narrows the field, then the final selections are validated and approved by the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff.

The criteria for this honor is "unique, unusual, or outstanding individual involvement and achievement within the preceding 12 months." Selection considerations include: superior general job performance; job knowledge and leadership qualities applied to a specific Air Force problem or situation; development of new techniques or procedures resulting in increased mission effectiveness; noteworthy self-improvement through on- or off-duty edu-

cational studies, participation in professional or cultural societies/associations, or development of creative abilities; participation in social, cultural, or religious activities in the military and/or civilian community which contribute directly or indirectly to community or group welfare, morale, or status; other significant achievements on- or off-duty which by their nature or results clearly distinguish the Airman from others of equal or higher grade; Air Force or civilian awards in recognition of personal service or contribution; and demonstrated ability as an articulate and positive Air Force spokesperson.

Buddy Romano must have been an easy selection.

He joined the Air Force in 1981 and quickly established himself as an outstanding airman. In 1983, he was named NCO of the Year. In 1984, he earned the Distinguished Graduate Award from the 15th Air Force NCO Leadership School at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. He maintained a 96 percent fully mission capable rating during his first year—his unit's highest—as Dedicated Crew Chief at the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. In 1987, he served in Operation Desert Storm. In 1988, he earned the NCO of the Year for the 548th Aircraft Generation Squadron, while maintaining a place on the Dean's List for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 1992, he earned his degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force.

Somehow, he has free time. Buddy has filled it by coaching or umpiring during almost every intramural varsity, high school, or youth basketball and baseball season since he became an airman. He has volunteered countless hours to the Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program, Anglo American sports day, Special Olympics, Arrive Alive Program, Toys for Tots Program, Top Three events, and countless other Air Force-sponsored events.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with two clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with five oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of recently meeting with Senior Master Sergeant and Jennifer Romano. They serve as a model for military couples, dedicating their lives to their family and their country. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Albert M. Romano, Jr., for earning the respect and gratitude of his peers, his officers, and his country.

RECOGNIZING BORUNDA INC. AND PLAZA VENTANA RESTAURANT

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Borunda as President and CEO of Borunda Inc., along with

Plaza Ventana Restaurant. Borunda Inc. is a corporation specializing in the food service business; and Plaza Ventana is a product of David's perseverance to become an entrepreneur.

David Borunda originally established his business in 1977 by opening Plaza Mexican Restaurant. Due to the tremendous success of the restaurant, Borunda was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Manchester Mall, in which his operation became the largest volume food operation in the facility. Borunda's career further escalated in 1984 when he was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Fashion Faire Shopping Center. Thus, he opened his third location and immediately assumed the number one volume store in the food court. Branching away from food courts, Borunda opened a full sit down restaurant located in the Times Square Shopping Center in Fresno. Plaza Ventana was well received and immediately became a success. As a result, this location was expanded by an additional one thousand square feet, which included a full service bar and an additional dining area.

Borunda was born and raised in Fresno, California and is well rooted in the community. He served as president of the California Restaurant Association Fresno Chapter in 1993 and 1994, and has over 50 employees. As proof of Borunda's enormous success, one has to look no further than the three Best Mexican Restaurant award, given by the California Restaurant Association, he has won.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor David Borunda for his tremendous success as an entrepreneur. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing David many more years of continued success.

#### QUALITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 1999*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting this bill that addresses the problem of the rising number of Americans who cannot afford health insurance. Under this plan, we will be able to extend health care options to the 44 million people in our country who remain uninsured.

We know that most people without health insurance have one thing in common: they cannot afford health care. They are either self-employed or they work in a small business that cannot afford to pay for health benefits.

The Quality Care for the Uninsured Act creates Association Health Plans to combat the high cost of health care in our country. Small businesses and self-employers will now have the ability to join together under the umbrella of trade and professional organizations to buy health insurance for themselves and their employees.

Association Health Plans will bring more choices and greater flexibility to those who need it most. Estimates show that small businesses will save between 10 and 20 percent on health care costs with Association Health

Plans. By cutting costs, we can expand health care coverage for the millions of hard-working Americans that are currently uninsured.

I commend Representative TALENT and Representative SHADEGG for their dedication to this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### THE PENSION REDUCTION DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1999

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. MARSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation, developed with my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee Mr. WELLER and in conjunction with the Administration, which will provide increased notice to employees when their employers convert their pension plans from traditional defined benefit plans to so-called "cash balance" plans.

The Pension Reduction Disclosure Act of 1999 revises existing section 204(h) of ERISA and adds related ERISA and tax provisions providing for the following: (1) a basic advance notice must be given for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a pension plan; (2) an enhanced advance notice must be given when applicable large plans are converted to cash balance plans or otherwise amended to reduce the rate of future benefit accrual; (3) individuals receiving the enhanced notice have the right to receive supporting general plan information, such as the plan's benefit formula and actuarial factors; and (4) individuals receiving the enhanced notice also have the right to receive individual benefit statements relating to the projected effect of the amendment on them. In general, the information required to be provided under the Act must be written in a manner calculated to be reasonably understood by the average plan participant. The Act imposes minimum notice and information requirements; employers may choose to provide information (in the required notice or otherwise) that is in addition to that required under the Act.

Basic advance notice: Current law requires 15 days' advance notice for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a pension plan. Pension plans subject to the Act requirements are those plans subject to existing section 204(h) of ERISA. The Act increases this to 45 days before the effective date. The Act eliminates the current law requirement that notice be provided only after the plan amendment has been adopted. A plan is not to be treated as failing to meet the notice requirements of the Act merely because notice is provided before the adoption of the amendment if no modification of the amendment occurs before the amendment is adopted that would affect the information required to be in the notice. The notice must include the effective date and the classes of individuals under the plan to which the amendment applies. The notice must state that the amendment significantly reduces the rate of future benefit accrual and must summarize the important terms of the amendment. For example,

in the case of a money purchase pension plan in which the rate of future contributions for all salaried employees is reduced from 7% of compensation to 4% of compensation, the basic notice must state that the plan is being amended to significantly reduce the rate of future contributions, that the rate of future contributions is being reduced from 7% of compensation to 4% of compensation, and that the amendment applies to all participants who are salaried employees on or after the effective date, which must be specified in the notice.

Enhanced advance notice: The enhanced advance notice applies to plans with at least 100 active participants at the end of the prior plan year (this information is on the Form 5500). This notice must provide the following additional information concerning the amendment: (1) a more detailed description of the plan amendment; (2) illustrative examples; (3) supporting information; and (4) individual benefit statements.

More detailed description. The enhanced notice provided to an affected participant must describe the normal and, if applicable, the early retirement benefit formulas under which the participant had been earning benefits before the amendment, describe the formulas under the plan as amended, and explain the effect of the amendment on the participant's normal and early retirement benefits. The enhanced notice, like the basic notice, must also state that the amendment is expected to significantly reduce the rate of future benefit accrual.

In addition, the enhanced notice must explicitly disclose any "wearaway" or "benefit plateau" or temporary period, expected to result from the amendment, during which there are no accruals or only minimal accruals. For example, if a large pension plan were amended from a traditional defined benefit plan to a cash balance plan through an amendment that reduced the rate of future benefit accrual, and the amendment provided for the establishment of an opening account balance using a formula or factors that resulted in the opening account balance being less than certain participants' section 417(e) lump sum value, the enhanced notice would have to identify the participants likely to experience a temporary cessation of accruals and explain why the wearaway occurred (for example, because the opening account balance was established using a different interest rate than required by the law to value lump sum benefits or because the formula used to establish the opening account balance did not take into account early retirement subsidies).

Illustrative examples. The enhanced notice must also include illustrative examples showing at representative future dates the estimated effect of the amendment on the participants in the examples. The illustrative examples will include estimates that provide a meaningful comparison of benefits that would be earned under the amended plan with benefits that would have been earned assuming the plan had not been amended. At a minimum, for a comparison to be meaningful, it must show benefits under the old and new formulas in the same form and at the same time. Accordingly, a comparison of an immediate lump sum under a new cash balance formula